

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01438 170740Z

12

ACTION IO-14

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SS-20 USIA-15 EA-11 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 037715

R 161403Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6558

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1438

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR, UN, DM

SUBJ: KEY ISSUES BEFORE 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF STATE 184584

1. MET WITH SECGEN OF MRGD FORNMIN SAGBO 16 SEPT TO DISCUSS KEY ISSUES BEFORE 29TH UNGA. LEFT AIDE-MEMOIRE OUTLINING OUR POSITIONS FOR TRANSMISSION TO FORNMIN ALLADAYE IN PARIS AND MRGD UN MISSION.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS, SAGBO SAID AS EXPECTED DAHOMEY WOULD NOT TAKE AN INDEPENDENT POSITION BUT WOULD GO ALONG WITH ANY DECISION BY THE AFRICAN GROUP. WHEN DISCUSSING ACTIONS OF PAST UNGA PRESIDENTS, SAGBO WITH A SLY SMILE, QUICKLY NOTED THAT THIS YEAR WE HAVE AN AFRICAN IN THAT SEAT. OBVIOUSLY THE AFRICANS ARE EXPECTING BOUTEFILKA TO RULE DIFFERENTLY THAN HIS PREDECESSORS.

3. PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES: THOUGH MRGD AGREES THAT PORTUGAL IS STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THEY INSIST ON THE NECESSITY TO KEEP PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL DURING THE GA SESSION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 01438 170740Z

DAHOMY PRESUMABLY WILL BE GUIDED BY DECISION OF THE AFRICAN

GROUP ON THIS ISSUE AS WELL.

4. CAMBODIA: ON THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO MEETING OF MINDS. MRGD, WHICH MAINTAINS DIP RELATIONS WITH GRUNK, HAS ITS FIXED IDEAS ON WHERE ACTUAL CONTROL LIES IN CAMBODIA AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT OUR POINT OF VIEW. DAHOMEY WILL VOTE FOR SEATING OF GRUNK DEL.

5. KOREA: THIS IS THE QUESTION WITH MOST CHANCE OF PERSUADING MRGD TO OUR POINT OF VIEW. SAGBO CLAIMS THAT DAHOMEANS HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECISION ON THIS QUESTION YET AND INTERESTED IN HEARING OUR POINT OF VIEW. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, MRGD MAINTAINS DIP RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT A FOLLOW-UP BE MADE IN NEW YORK WITH DAHOMEAN DEL ON THIS ISSUE.

6. MIDDLE EAST: I PRESENTED OUR VIEW ON MIDDLE EAST, WHICH ELICITED NO COMMENT OR REACTION FROM SAGBO.

7. ON FRIDAY, 13 SEPT, CHARGE ME WITH FORNMIN ALLADAYE TO PAY INITIAL COURTESY CALL. AS THIS WAS OUR INITIAL MEETING, DID NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO GO MUCH BEYOND EXPRESSING OUR DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN THE UNGA AS OUTLINED STATE 181646 AND ONLY MENTIONED IN THE BORADEST TERMS SOME OF THE ISSUES BEFORE UNGA THIS YEAR. THE MINISTER SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FULL DISCUSSION ON UN ISSUES AND BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR POSITIONS. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME SINCE HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT (THE PRC CHARGE) WAS ALREADY WAITING OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE. ALLADAYE LEFT FOR PARIS ON 15 SEPT TO HEAD MRGD DEL TO FIRST PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON REVISION OF FRENCH-DAHOMEAN ACCORDS (SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN COTONOU AT LATER DATE). ALLADAYE WILL PROBABLY SPEND A FEW WEEKS IN PARIS AND THEN PROCEED TO UNGA SOMETIME BEFORE THE END OF MONTH. FROM THE UNGA HE WILL VISIT CANADA AND POSSIBLY SOME OTHER EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN CAPITALS. SINCE THIS WAS OUR FIRST MEETING, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE WHETHER ALLADAYE'S APPARENT SINCERITY WAS REAL. IF AF/W CONCURS, RECOMMEND THAT USUN AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL SEEK AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH ALLADAYE IN NEW YORK US POSITIONS ON ISSUES BEFORE UNGA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COTONO 01438 170740Z

8. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR PARIS, ALLADAYE WAS INTERVIEWED BY PRESS. HE NOTED THAT DAHOMEY HAD NO PARTICULAR ISSUES TO RAISE AT UNGA STATING THAT DAHOMEY WAS GOING AS AN AFRICAN COUNTRY AND WOULD BE GUIDED BY DECISION MADE AT THE LAST HEAD OF STATE MEETING OF THE OAU.
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